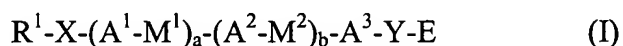


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A five-membered ring compound of the formula (I),

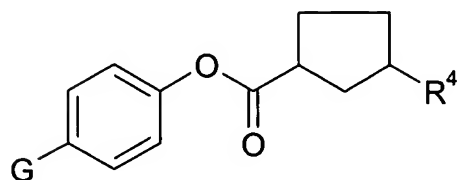


where the symbols and indices have the following meanings:

**E** is a radical T-Z-R<sup>2</sup> containing a five-membered ring, where:

- (i) **T** is undirected and is  
4-fluorothiophene-2,5-diyl, 3-fluorothiophene-2,5-diyl,  
3-fluorothiophene-2,4-diyl or 5-fluorothiophene-2,4-diyl  
**Z** is a single bond or -O-  
**R<sup>2</sup>** is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without  
asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one  
nonterminal CH<sub>2</sub> group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O-  
and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that  
a) the -CH<sub>2</sub>- group nearest to the thiophene cannot be replaced by -O-  
when Z is -O-  
b) R<sup>2</sup> can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,
- (ii) **T** is furan-2,5-diyl or furan-2,4-diyl  
**Z** is a single bond or -O-  
**R<sup>2</sup>** is ~~hydrogen~~ or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without  
asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one  
nonterminal CH<sub>2</sub> group nonadjacent to furan may be replaced by -O- or  
-OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F,
- (iii) **T** is undirected and is isoxazole-3,5-diyl

- Z** is a single bond or -O-
- R<sup>2</sup>** is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH<sub>2</sub> group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that
- the -CH<sub>2</sub>- group nearest to the isoxazole cannot be replaced by -O- when Z is -O-
  - R<sup>2</sup> can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,
- (iv) **T** is undirected and is thiazole-2,5-diyl or thiazole-2,4-diyl
- Z** is a single bond
- R<sup>2</sup>** is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH<sub>2</sub> group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F,
- (v) **T** is cyclopentane-1,3-diyl
- Z** is a single bond or -O-
- R<sup>2</sup>** is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH<sub>2</sub> group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the provisos that
- the -CH<sub>2</sub>- group nearest to the cyclopentane cannot be replaced by -O- when Z is -O-
  - R<sup>2</sup> can only be hydrogen when Z is a single bond,
- with the exception of compounds of the formula (II)



(II)

in which

**R<sup>4</sup>** is as defined for **R<sup>2</sup>**

**G** is trans-4-propyl-cyclohexyl or trans-4-butyl-cyclohexyl or an alkyl group of 1 to 15 carbon atoms, in which, in addition, one or more nonadjacent CH<sub>2</sub> groups may be replaced by -O-, -CO-, -OCO-, -O-CO-O-, -CHhalogen-, -CHCN- and/or -CH=CH- or is F, CN,

(vi) **T** is cyclopentane-1,3-diyl, in which one -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>- or -CH<sub>2</sub>CH- group is replaced by a -CH=CH- or CH=C- group respectively

**Z** is a single bond

**R<sup>2</sup>** is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, where one nonterminal CH<sub>2</sub> group may be replaced by -O- or -OC(=O)- or -C(=O)O- and/or one or more H atoms may be replaced by F, with the proviso that the -CH<sub>2</sub>- group nearest to the cyclopentene cannot be replaced and where

**Y** cannot be -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-,

**R<sup>1</sup>** is hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched C<sub>1-20</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>2-20</sub>-alkenyl radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms), where

- a) one or two nonterminal CH<sub>2</sub> groups may be replaced, independently of one another, by -O- or -C(=O)-, with the proviso that two adjacent CH<sub>2</sub> groups cannot be replaced in the same way, and/or
- b) one CH<sub>2</sub> group may be replaced by -C≡C-, and/or
- c) one CH<sub>2</sub> group may be replaced by -Si(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-, cyclopropane-1,2-diyl, cyclobutane-1,3-diyl, cyclopentane-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[1.1.1]pentane-1,3-diyl or cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, and/or
- d) one or more H atoms may be replaced by F and/or CN,
- e) in the case of a branched alkyl radical containing asymmetric carbon atoms, the asymmetric carbon atoms have -CH<sub>3</sub>, -OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, F, CN and/or Cl as substituents or are incorporated into a 3- to 7-membered ring,

in which, in addition, one or two non-adjacent CH<sub>2</sub> groups may be replaced by -O- and one CH<sub>2</sub> group non-adjacent to these groups may be replaced by -OC(=O)-;

**X** is a single bond, -O-, OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- or -OC(=O)O-

**Y** is -OC(=O)-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-

**A<sup>1</sup>, A<sup>2</sup>, A<sup>3</sup>** are each, independently of one another,

phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, phenylene-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, in which one or two H atoms may be replaced by CN and/or CH<sub>3</sub> and/or F, 1-cyclohexene-1,4-diyl, in which one H atom may be replaced by F, 1-alkyl-1-silacyclohexane-1,4-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, cyclopentane-2,5-diyl or thiophene-2,5-diyl;

**M<sup>1</sup>, M<sup>2</sup>** are undirected and are each, independently of one another, -OC(=O)-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -OC(=O)CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>-, -C≡C-, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>- or a single bond;

**a, b** are each, independently of one another, 0 or 1.

2. (Original) A liquid-crystal mixture comprising at least one compound of the formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

3. (Original) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2, which comprises from 0.01 to 80% by weight of one or more compounds of the formula (I).

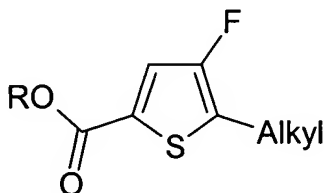
4. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2 or 3, which is ferroelectric (chiral smectic).

5. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 2 or 3, which is nematic.

6. (Original) A ferroelectric switching and/or display device, which contains a ferroelectric liquid-crystal mixture as claimed in claim 4.

7. (Original) A ferroelectric switching and/or display device as claimed in claim 6, which contains active matrix elements and wherein the liquid-crystal layer forms a monostable monodomain.

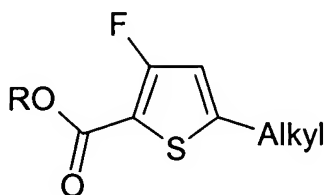
8. (Currently Amended) A 5-alkyl-4-fluoro-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid of the formula (II)



(II)

in which alkyl is a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical of 2 to 16 carbon atoms with the exception of methyl and tert-butyl, and R is hydrogen, alkali metal, alkaline earth metal (1/2), a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical of 1 to 16 atoms with the exception of methyl and tert-butyl, or a corresponding acid halide.

9. (Original) A 5-alkyl-3-fluoro-thiophene-2-carboxylic acid of the formula (III)



(III)

in which alkyl is a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical of 2 to 16 carbon atoms and R is hydrogen, alkali metal, alkaline earth metal (1/2), a straight-chain or branched alkyl radical of 1 to 16 atoms or a corresponding acid halide.

10. (Deleted).

11. (Original) A fluorinated five-membered ring compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in the cyclopentene derivatives (vi), T is 1-cyclopentene-1,3-diyl, 1-cyclopentene-1,4-diyl or 3-cyclopentene-1,3-diyl.

12. (Original) A fluorinated five-membered ring compound as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in the cyclopentene derivatives (vi), the moiety –Y-T- is 1-cyclopentene-1-carbonyloxy-3-yl, 1-cyclopentene-1-carbonyloxy-4-yl or 3-cyclopentene-1-carbonyloxy-3-yl.